

About the author



Ruth Ozeki

Ruth Ozeki was born in Massachusetts, and graduated from Smith College with degrees in Asian studies and English literature. She later studied classical Japanese literature at the University of Nara in Japan.

Before her writing career, she worked as a filmmaker in New York City. Her documentaries have been shown on PBS and at the Sundance Film Festival. However, she has not been interested in filmmaking after publishing her first book, *My year of meats*, saying that "[w]hen I was filmmaker what I really liked was the editing: the solitary process of moving things around and building a story. And I suppose that's what writing is about."

Though her work often addresses serious social concerns, it also displays offbeat humor and memorable characters. Feminist and environmental issues often figure into her work. She also sees her Zen Buddhist faith as deeply connected to her writing. Ozeki was ordained as a Soto Zen Buddhist priest in 2010.^{1,2,3}

¹ Ruth L. Ozeki. (2014). *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, 207. Retrieved April 24, 2014, from Literature Resource Center (GALE|H1130300000). Retrieved from <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1130300000&v=2.1&u=burl53467&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=a597c28b6e3925d27be37b2189d6dff>

² Ruth Ozeki. (2014). *Contemporary Authors Online*. Retrieved April 24, 2014, from Literature Resource Center (GALE|H1000132290). Retrieved from <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1000132290&v=2.1&u=burl53467&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=dd11a1f751cd18e5b7b7d3fef813d0c2>

³ Tivnan, T. (2012, December 21). Japanese tale: the author, filmmaker and Zen Buddhist priest impresses with a beguiling Japanese-based coming of age story. *The Bookseller*, 21. Retrieved April 24, 2014, from Literature Resource Center (GALE|A314252074). Retrieved from <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA314252074&v=2.1&u=burl53467&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=87cbe3c4fed4fb8788f62b687ca721c1>

Discussion questions

1. What makes the 1970s such an appropriate time period for the novel's subplot? How do The Seeds of Resistance compare to the protesters of Yumi's youth? 2. The novel's title implies several meanings, including the concept of universality. What global themes are covered in "All Over Creation"? How would the characters manifest themselves in your community?
3. Discuss the numerous "varietals" of love presented in the novel. Whose relationships, whether parental, romantic, or otherwise, do you consider to be the least encumbered by exploitation?
4. For whom do you have greater empathy - Cassie or Yumi? How might Yumi's life have played out had she stayed at home, as Cassie did? In what ways have they been leading parallel lives though separated by thousands of miles?
5. How does Charmey's fate affect your understanding of her narrative role?
6. How is the theme of religion used throughout the novel? Do you approve or disapprove of Lloyd Fuller's interpretation of scripture?
7. Yumi quickly resumes her sexual relationship with older-man Elliot but hesitates to become involved with Geek. What does this indicate about her? Why does she resist being the elder? What is the source of her hunger for Elliot?
8. If you had been Yumi's parent, how might you have reacted to her teenage pregnancy? Discuss the irony of The Seeds's acceptance into Mr. Fuller's household. What do they teach the Fullers - including Yumi - about raising a family and navigating ideological impasses?
9. Farms are increasingly becoming political battlefields. Did the book change your opinion about organic farming? How has produce shopping changed since you were a child?
10. The book concludes with a reference to Frank's slogan, "Resistance is fertile." What is the relevance of this phrase to your life and the world today?

Questions taken from the author's reading guide

Available at <http://www.ruthozeki.com/writing-film/creation/read/readers-guide>

Further reading

More by Ruth Ozeki:

A tale for the time being / Ruth Ozeki. New York : Viking, 2013. 422 pages.

My year of meats / Ruth Ozeki. New York : Penguin Books, 1999. 366 pages.

Similar reads:

The unsettling of America, by Wendell Berry

Farm city: the education of an urban farmer, by Novella Carpenter

Night Road, by Kristin Hannah

Animal Vegetable Miracle, by Barbara Kingsolver

The omnivore's dilemma, by Michael Pollan